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LB 620, 657

of those other areas that are also held harmless. So we might as well face the facts--General Funds will have to be increased over a period of time. Now we are talking here about \$2.5 million over a 15-year period, a million dollars here in Lincoln; perhaps it was the opposite, \$1.5 million here, a million dollars in Omaha. Now this particular flood project here is one thing. The situation in Omaha is another thing. We talk about economic development. I have supported every economic development bill that's ever been presented here in the Legislature. This LB 620, I think that's good for Omaha. It's good for the whole state of Nebraska, and our Quality Jobs Act before that and the others that we have promoted, I think that's good for the whole state. But a million dollars a year for riverfront beautification in Omaha I think it's very nice that they're doing that and I think they should do that because the whole project in that area is going to really enhance the city of Omaha and the image coming into the state of Nebraska. But I do not think that we should be using General Funds to do that. I think that's something that will be done whether we pass this bill or not. I think it...and the Antelope Creek situation will be handled whether we pass this bill or not. And I think it should be taken care of the way it should be taken care of with local taxes. And if the state does owe something...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR ENGEL: ...for their portion of it, then we should come up with General Funds. As far as Senator Janssen's amendment here, I've got calls from different ones. In fact, there was a small article in the World-Herald not very long ago in Dakota City, Nebraska. They said, well, if you're going to divert these funds for projects in Lincoln and Omaha, we've got a library that was built during the Depression by WPA, a very small building, and we can't afford a better one. So it's not just...and this isn't an urban/rural bill here at all. I think it's strictly a tax bill. And I think as far as I am concerned I'm...this is just another way of saying I'm against, totally against the bill. And if Senator Wickersham is still here, I'd be...release the rest of my time to him. If not, I give it back to the Chair.